

Carnochan (J. M.)

AMPUTATION

OF

THE ENTIRE LOWER JAW,

*Bind covers in front.*

WITH

DISARTICULATION OF BOTH CONDYLES.

BY J. M. CARNOCHAN, M. D.,

PROFESSOR OF THE PRINCIPLES AND OPERATIONS OF SURGERY IN THE NEW-YORK  
MEDICAL COLLEGE, CHIEF SURGEON TO THE NEW-YORK EMIGRANTS'  
HOSPITAL, &c.,

WITH PLATES.

[From the New-York Journal of Medicine.]

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DEDICATED  
TO THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS  
OF THE  
HONORABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF EMIGRATION,

IN NEW-YORK,

By their obedient servant,

J. M. CARNOCHAN.

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President of the Board,  
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ELIAS HICKS,  
JAMES KELLY.



# OF CARNOCHAN'S CASE OF AMPUTATION OF THE ENTIRE LOWER JAW.

THE LOWER JAW—AFTER MACERATION.

N<sup>o</sup> 1.



DANIELS DEL. AD. NAT.

Lith. & Printed in Colors by Strong & Mayor, N.Y.

- a. Condyles of the jaw
- b. Rami of the jaw—diseased
- c. Body of the jaw in a State of necrosis, and seen as Separated during the Operation.

APPEARANCE OF THE PATIENT FOUR MONTHS AFTER THE OPERATION.

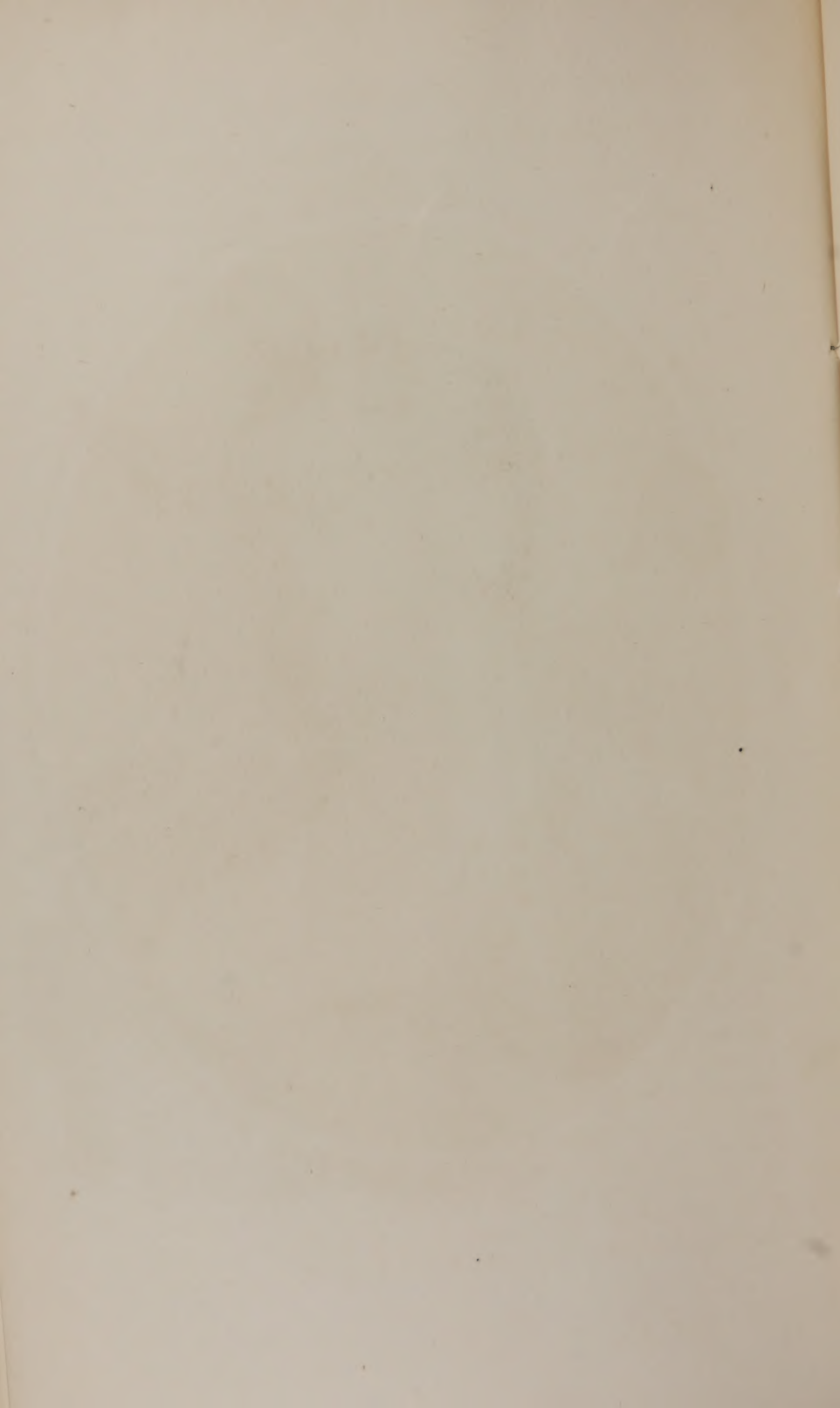
N<sup>o</sup> 2



FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY T. HARRIS.

Don. of Surgery & Medicine, University.

*Upon the side of the face, the cicatrix is seen, shewing the line of the external incision; a similar incision made upon the opposite side, meets the other at the Chin.*





# AMPUTATION

OF THE

## ENTIRE LOWER JAW.

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NOTWITHSTANDING the repeated instances on record of large portions of the lower jaw having been lost by accident or disease, surgeons appear to have been slow in admitting the possibility of practising amputation, either partial or total, of this bone. To Dupuytren was reserved the glory of having, in 1812, first removed, by a methodical operation, a portion of the body of the inferior maxilla; but since the innovation of the celebrated French surgeon, the operation for the partial exsection of this bone has been repeatedly performed. In the annals of surgery, there is an *allusion* made to the amputation of the *entire* lower jaw, by Walther, of Bonn; but I have not been able to trace the truth of it to an official source.

The following case will prove that this operation can be performed with success; and that the patient, although deprived of the chief instrument of mastication, may survive, and enjoy the usual condition of health.

Nicholas Donegan, aged 43, a farmer by occupation, was admitted into the New-York Emigrants' Hospital, March 7th, 1851. He was treated for some weeks, in the Medical Division, for typhus fever, and was afterwards transferred to the Surgical Department, under my charge. Upon examination of the patient, his face presented much tumefaction, and he complained of great pain, seated chiefly in the region occu-

pied by the inferior maxilla. Upon carrying the examination further, the lower jaw was found to be extensively affected with necrosis. All the external appearances denoting a cachectic condition of the constitution, with extreme debility and general prostration of the vital functions, were present. The patient stated that, during his recent voyage to this country, he had received a severe blow upon the lower jaw and side of the face. This circumstance, coupled with the cachectic condition following the attack of fever, appears, as far as can be learned, to have been the origin of the disease of the bone.

A tonic course of treatment was prescribed for him, and various local applications and lotions were resorted to, in order to allay the irritation in the mouth, and abate the fetor emanating from the disease. In a short time, the teeth became loose, and had to be extracted; the alveolar ridge became partially denuded; the swelling increased towards and over the rami and condyles; and the patient complained of excruciating suffering and depression. Nutritious diet and the various therapeutic agents, proper to improve and renovate his system, were persevered in; and soothing and astringent lotions and applications were unremittingly used. This plan of treatment was pursued for about three months; at the expiration of which time, it became evident that the disease of the osseous tissue was too deeply rooted to be affected by mere remedial agents. In fact, they were found to be entirely unavailing. The disease had now apparently seized upon the entire jaw; pus was abundantly secreted into the cavity of the mouth; the saliva was also thrown out in great quantity; and the fetor became almost intolerable to the patient himself, and to those around him in the ward. Constitutional irritation and hectic of a grave character had also set in; diarrhoea made its attack; and the patient was gradually sinking under the complications of his disease, and the terrific pain by which he was unceasingly tortured. It was apparent to me that the speedy death of the patient could only be avoided by removing the source of such intense suffering and constitutional derangement. The integuments over the disease, although much tumefied, œdematous, tense and red, remained

free from ulceration ; the vitiated secretions taking their exit by the cavity of the mouth.

On the 13th of July, a consultation was held, and an operation for the removal of the bone decided upon. The formidable nature of the operation proposed, together with the debilitated and cachectic condition of the patient, induced me to enter into full explanations, and to inform him of the great risk that would attend it. The matter was then left to himself, and at his urgent request, I proceeded to use my efforts for his relief. It was not thought expedient to administer either chloroform or ether, on account of the liability to asphyxia from the passage of blood into the wind-pipe.

The patient being seated on a chair, and the assistants properly arranged, an incision was first made, commencing opposite the left condyle, passing downwards towards the angle of the jaw, ranging at about two lines in front of the posterior border of the ramus, and extending thence along the base of the jaw, to terminate by a slight curve on the mesial line, half an inch below the free margin of the lower lip. The bone was now partially laid bare, by dissecting upwards the tissues of the cheek, and by reflecting downwards, for a short distance, the lower edge of the incision. The tissues forming the floor of the mouth, and situated upon the inner surface of the body of the bone, were separated from their attachments from a point near the mesial line, as far back as the angle of the jaw. The attachments of the buccinator were next divided. The facial artery, the sub-mental and the sub-lingual, already cut, were then secured by ligature. It was now seen that the bone was partially separated at the symphysis, and that the necrosis was complete from that point to the inferior portion of the ramus. The ramus itself was found diseased ; the periosteum externally was inflamed, and in some parts easily detached. The tongue was now grasped and held forwards, while the attachments of the genio-hyo-glossi muscles were divided. A double ligature was passed through the anterior part of the root of the tongue, and entrusted to an assistant, in order to prevent its retraction upon the superior orifice of the larynx. A fatal case from the falling backwards of the tongue, occurred a few years ago, in the practice of an emi-



nent surgeon of this city; and a similar misfortune should always be guarded against, when the muscular attachments of the tongue to the posterior part of the bone behind the symphysis are divided. A slight force exercised upon the left half of the body of the jaw, broke the connection at the symphysis and at the angle, and this part was easily removed. The next step consisted in the removal of the left ramus. The external surface of the branch of the jaw, and of the temporo-maxillary articulation were exposed, by dissecting the masseter upwards, as far as the zygomatic arch. Seizing the ramus in order to pull the coronoid process downwards below the zygoma, it was found that the temporal muscle was rigidly and permanently retracted. This circumstance presented an unexpected difficulty, which was increased by the unusual development of this apophysis, and by the retraction also of the pterygoid muscles. Passing the forefinger along the inner aspect of the ramus, the situation of the internal and external carotids was sought for and recognised. The insertion of the pterygoideus internus was then felt and cut, grazing the bone in doing so; the lingual nerve, here in close proximity, being carefully avoided. Passing still higher up, the orifice of the dental canal, indicated by an osseous projection, could be felt; and the instrument, still guided by the finger, divided the dental artery and nerve. The knife was thus made to separate the tissues attached to the inner face of the bone, as high up as a point situated about a line below the sigmoid notch, between the condyle and the coronoid process. On a level with this point, at the posterior margin of the ramus, the transverse facial, internal maxillary and temporal arteries form a kind of tripod, the two last named branches of which should not be divided, if possible. It now became necessary to detach the tendon of the temporal muscle. As the coronoid process could not be depressed, I proceeded cautiously, by dividing the lower attachments of the tendon, by means of blunt curved scissors; and by using them and a probe-pointed bistoury, alternately—keeping close to the bone—a considerable portion of the tendon was divided. Deeming it not prudent to use freely a sharp cutting instrument, deep



in the temporal fossa, where the coronoid process was situated, I made use of a pair of bone scissors, curved flatwise; and by passing the blades of this instrument over the process, as far as its position would permit, the temporal muscle was detached; a small portion of the apex of the coronoid process being cut through. The ramus, now movable, could be made use of as a lever to aid in the disarticulation of the bone.

In order to effect safely the disarticulation of the condyle, I began by penetrating into the joint, by cutting the ligaments from *before backwards*, and from *without inwards*. The articulation was thus opened sufficiently to allow the condyle to be completely luxated. Blunt-pointed scissors were now used to cut carefully the internal part of the capsule and the maxillary insertion of the external pterygoid muscle; and by a slow movement of rotation of the ramus upon its axis, the condyle was detached, and the operation was completed on this side. By proceeding to disarticulate by the method here described, injury to the temporal artery, as well as to the internal maxillary, was avoided.

To effect the removal of the other half of the lower jaw, the same incision was made on the opposite side, so as to meet the first on the mesial line. The dissection was also similar; and by disarticulating the second condyle in the same manner as had been observed for the first, I was successful again in avoiding lesion of the temporal and internal maxillary arteries.

The annexed plate, No. 1, is a correct delineation of the inferior maxilla, after maceration, and exhibits the portions of the bone as they became separated during the operation.

The object I had in view, in shaping the external incisions, in such a way that an inverted V should be formed in front of the insertion of the genio-hyo-glossi muscles, was to leave a portion of integument so fashioned, that the suture-pins could be passed through the integument, and, at the same time, through the root of the tongue, at the point where its muscles had been detached from the inner surface of the jaw. The several tissues becoming thus incorporated in the resulting cicatrix, served to form a new bridle, somewhat analogous to the natural muscular attachments of the tongue to the genial processes.

The amount of blood lost was inconsiderable; the arteries divided, besides those mentioned, were the transverse facial, the anterior masseteric, the anterior parotidean, &c. ; and these were secured as soon as divided. The bone being disarticulated, the flaps were adjusted, and the lips of the incision united, by eighteen points of twisted suture. The tongue was retained forwards after the dressing, by attaching the ends of the ligature already passed through its base, on each side, to a bandage passed vertically around the head. Forty-eight hours after the operation, the first dressing was removed. Union by first intention had taken place, and eight of the suture-pins were taken out. In ninety-six hours, the wound was again examined. Union was found to be entirely completed, and the remaining pins were removed. On the seventh day, it was thought safe to remove the ligature from the tongue. On the tenth day, the arterial ligatures came away; and on the fourteenth day, the patient was pronounced cured; not having had an untoward symptom since the performance of the operation.

The operation occupied fifty-five minutes, the patient having been allowed intervals of repose to recruit. It was performed in the presence of a number of professional gentlemen; and I was ably assisted by my colleague, Dr. A. V. Williams, by Drs. Dewees and Dixon, of New-York, and by Drs. Thompson, Whitehead, Smith and Bailey, resident assistants attached to the surgical staff of the Hospital.

The present appearance of the patient, upon reference to the accompanying plate, No. 2, will be seen to present much less deformity than might be expected from the severe mutilation which he has undergone. His general condition and health are good; and he is now able to perform any ordinary vocation. The ducts of Steno, on both sides, were necessarily divided in the superficial incisions; but there is no salivary fistula, the saliva taking its course into the mouth. The division of the branches of the facial nerve has not been followed by paralysis of the face; although for a time after the reunion of the incision, the orbicularis palpebrarum of the right side appeared to have lost its action to some extent. In grasping the chin, a thin cartilaginous deposit can now be

felt, extending, crescent-shaped, for about three inches, and occupying the position at which the bone was most diseased. Higher up, toward the glenoid cavity, no deposition of bone or cartilage has taken place. Injury to the bag of the pharynx, during the detachment of the soft tissues from the angle of the jaw, was carefully avoided, and fluids could be swallowed, in small quantities, immediately after the operation. Deglutition is now effected without difficulty. Articulation is sufficiently distinct to render his words intelligible, and although unable to masticate, he does not complain of difficulty in eating, breaking up, as he says he does, his food between the tongue and the palatal vault of the superior maxillæ.

*New-York, 759 Broadway, Dec. 1851.*



